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26th September, 1959

COCOM Document No. 3683

COORDINATING COMMITTEERECORD OF DISCUSSIONONA GERMAN PROPOSAL TO EXPORT NICKEL POWDER TO HUNGARY17th and 21st September 1959

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Present: Belgium (Luxembourg), Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States.

Reference: COCOM Document No. 3661.

1. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the Committee to the German proposal to export 300 grammes of nickel powder to Hungary. He noted that the German Delegate had asked for this to be considered as an ad hoc case and invited Delegates to give the views of their authorities.
2. The UNITED KINGDOM Delegate said that his authorities could not agree to the export of even this very small amount of nickel powder because of its strategic importance. They had refused a number of requests for licences for the export of the same material from the United Kingdom. The Delegate recalled that during the discussions on minimum shipments earlier in the year his authorities had opposed the German proposal to extend a modified form of the de minimis procedure to Atomic Energy List Item 11, which covered nickel powder.
3. The UNITED STATES Delegate said that his authorities would be grateful for information concerning the end-use to which the nickel powder would be put before they gave their final views.
4. There were no objections from the other Members of the Committee.
5. The GERMAN Delegate, in reply to his United States colleague, stated that the importer was the official agency for the purchase of medical equipment. The nickel powder was required for laboratory purposes and was not a single shipment but a small part of a large order for non-embargoed laboratory chemicals. Referring to the remarks made by the United Kingdom Delegate, he pointed out that the proposal to extend a modified form of the de minimis procedure to this item was withdrawn only as a compromise and not to bar the submission of any exception requests to the Committee. Since 300 grammes of this powder were worth no more than \$1.65 they were convinced that the powder was very ordinary material. The nickel powder that was used for the enrichment of isotopes was different in that it possessed special characteristics of a secret nature. The Delegate undertook to report the United Kingdom views back to his authorities. In conclusion, he asked the United Kingdom Delegation to reconsider their position. He mentioned that differences of this kind might make it necessary to discuss this item in the forthcoming list review.
6. The COMMITTEE agreed to hear the further views of Governments on September 21st.
7. On September 21st, the UNITED STATES Delegate said that his authorities had no objection to this export.
8. The UNITED KINGDOM Delegate undertook to inform the Committee as soon as he received the further views of his authorities.

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